United Nations E/2018/SR.42

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 July 2018

Original: English

2018 session
27 July 2017–26 July 2018
Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 42nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 2 July 2018, at 3 p.m.

President: Ms. King (Vice-President) . . . . . (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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18-10896 (E)

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In the absence of Ms. Chatardova (Czechia), Ms. King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice (E/2017/30/Add.1 and E/2018/30)

1. **Mr. Bouchaara** (Morocco), Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, introduced the report of the Commission on its reconvened twenty-sixth session (E/2017/30/Add.1) and the report of the Commission on its twenty-seventh session (E/2018/30).

2. Accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, he said that cross-border transactions and human movement were common, and information flow had become borderless. As a result, crime had also become a cross-border phenomenon, particularly terrorism, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and wildlife crime. The joint actions of Member States to address those cross-border challenges through strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance had received growing attention in the Commission, which functioned as a policymaking body that provided guidance through policy deliberation and the adoption of resolutions and decisions.

3. The theme of the twenty-seventh session had been "Criminal justice responses to prevent and counter cybercrime in all its forms, including through the strengthening of cooperation at the national and international levels". A number of standing items had also been discussed, including the use and application of United Nations standards and norms, as well as world crime trends and emerging issues and responses. A record 1,200 participants had attended the session, and there had been 15 exhibitions and over 80 side events, in which Member States and other stakeholders had presented their work and exchanged views, lessons learned and good practices. Nine resolutions and three decisions had been adopted. Four of the resolutions dealt with trafficking, specifically, preventing and combating trafficking in persons facilitated by the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies (ICTs); improving the protection of children against trafficking in persons, including by addressing the criminal misuse of ICTs; strengthening measures against trafficking in persons; and promoting international cooperation against trafficking in cultural property. A resolution on restorative justice in criminal matters had also been adopted.

4. Three draft resolutions had been recommended for approval by the Council and subsequent adoption by the General Assembly. The first concerned enhancing the role of the Commission in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and had been sponsored by a number of Member States across regional groups. In that connection, the Commission submitted a substantive written contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development each year. The second resolution dealt with the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies. The third resolution concerned preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in April 2020, in Kyoto, Japan. The theme would be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: Towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda", and workshops would focus on evidence-based crime prevention, reducing reoffending, the role of education and youth engagement and emerging solutions. Japan had announced its intention to hold a youth forum prior to the Congress.

5. In addition, a new database on the website of the Commission made it easier to search for resolutions adopted at previous sessions.

6. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Mexico) said that Mexico had played an active role as a State member of the Council, sponsoring a number of resolutions on issues such as improving the quality and availability of crime and criminal justice statistics and mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime.

7. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) played a fundamental role in providing technical assistance and building capacity. The international community must therefore ensure that the Office had the necessary sustainable resources to carry out its work. It must also promote synergies and collaboration between UNODC and other United Nations agencies in order to offer countries more effective and comprehensive cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to avoid duplicating efforts and wasting resources.

8. His Government emphasized the importance of distinguishing between terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, transnational organized crime and the world drug problem, recognizing that each required a distinct approach. The international community must increase awareness of elements that

fuelled criminal and terrorist organizations, especially trafficking in firearms and illicit financial flows, and address the structural factors that increased the capacity of those organizations and their impact on international peace and security. Progress must therefore be made in achieving Goal 16.

9. With regard to budgeting and operations, Mexico called on UNODC to redouble its efforts to achieve gender parity in all positions as well as equitable geographical representation, which continued to be a challenge for the Office.

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-sixth session

10. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-sixth session (E/2017/30/Add.1).

11. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-seventh session (E/2018/30)

12. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Enhancing the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Draft resolution II: Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

13. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

14. **Mr. Mizuno** (Japan) said that the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was the largest and most prominent meeting in that field within the United Nations. Substantive discussions would begin in regional preparatory meetings in early 2019, and he called for the active involvement of Member States in order to improve synergies and cohesion between the Congress and other United Nations bodies.

Draft resolution III: The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals

15. *Draft resolution III was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision I: Appointment of one member of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Draft decision II: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-seventh session and provisional agenda for its twenty-eighth session

16. *Draft decisions I and II were adopted.*

(d) Narcotic drugs (E/2017/28/Add.1, E/2018/28 and E/INCB/2017/1)

17. **Ms. Buenrostro Massieu** (Mexico), Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, introduced the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixtieth session (E/2017/28/Add.1) and the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session (E/2018/28).

18. Accompanying her statement with a digital slide presentation, she said that the drug problem could only be addressed with a comprehensive and balanced approach, through multilateralism, cooperation, dialogue and mutual understanding. As Chair of the Commission, she would continue to support efforts to ensure consistency and generate synergies within the United Nations system and harmonize its work within the Commission in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. She invited all countries that did not have permanent representation in Vienna or were not currently States members of the Commission to share their proposals with her. She also extended that invitation to civil society organizations, academia and regional forums.

19. The sixty-first session of the Commission had been attended by nearly 1,700 participants and had comprised approximately 100 side events and exhibitions. The President of the International Narcotics Control Board, the Executive Director of UNODC and the Director General of the World Health Organization had issued a joint statement in which their organizations committed to further strengthening cooperation. The Commission had recommended two draft decisions for adoption by the Council and had adopted 11 resolutions and 12 decisions. It had discussed changes in the scope of control of substances under the international drug control conventions. Carfentanil had been included in Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic

Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. Five additional substances had been included in Schedule I and six substances had been included in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The resolutions adopted by the Commission covered a broad range of issues, including drug prevention curricula in educational settings, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, the importance of research and analytical work in implementing scheduling decisions, the promotion of alternative development and non-stigmatizing attitudes, the need to address social marginalization and protect children, and the importance of a coordinated and joint approach to the world drug problem.

20. Resolution 61/10 concerned preparations for the two-day ministerial segment, to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission in March 2019, in order to evaluate the implementation of commitments set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. It would consist of a general debate and two interactive multi-stakeholder round tables. The resolution encouraged all member States, observer States and observers to be represented at the highest possible level and to participate actively in the preparations in order to foster an in-depth exchange of information. An outline for the way beyond 2019 would be presented at the reconvened sixty-first session of the Commission, and three intersessional meetings would be held in 2018 to advance substantive and organizational preparations for the 2019 ministerial segment.

21. The implementation of the outcome document of the special session was led by the Commission and supported by UNODC, in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations entities. The follow-up process consisted of thematic discussions conducted by the Commission, support for implementation at the regional level facilitated by subsidiary bodies of the Commission, implementation workshops at the national level and a post-special session website with a good practices portal.

22. The Commission had also submitted a substantive contribution to the high-level political forum.

23. **Mr. Sumyai** (President of the International Narcotics Control Board), introducing the report of the Board for 2017 as contained in document E/INCB/2017/1, said that the report had focused on the link between human rights and drug policy. The Board worked with Governments to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, to provide treatment and rehabilitation services, as well as to prevent diversion, drug abuse, illicit cultivation, production and trafficking.

24. The treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of people impacted by drug use disorders were essential to drug demand reduction. Five out of six people in need of drug dependence treatment lacked access to related services. The report therefore drew attention to the need to protect their right to health and provided recommendations to Governments to address stigma, which remained a significant obstacle to accessing treatment. The treatment of drug dependence was highly cost-effective.

25. The report also reviewed the functioning of the international drug control system and treaty compliance. The use of cannabis for non-medical purposes was contrary to the international drug control conventions, and the Board was continuing its dialogue with the Governments of Uruguay, the United States of America and Canada in that connection. The principle of shared responsibility and the fact that treaties were binding and must be implemented in good faith formed the cornerstone of the rule-based international order. The Board would therefore continue to call for universal compliance, as piecemeal implementation of the conventions was not an option. Furthermore, drug control treaties must be implemented with full respect for human rights. Internationally controlled drugs must be available and accessible for medical use, and Governments must comply with their obligations to prevent drug abuse and ensure early identification, treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation and social reintegration. Access to those services must be non-discriminatory and available in prison settings, and children must be protected from drug abuse, illicit production and trafficking. In addition, the Board once again urged the international community to prioritize its support for Afghanistan in the face of its worsening security and drug control situation.

26. While the global medical consumption of opioid analgesics had been increasing, a global pain divide had emerged which disproportionately impacted low- and middle-income countries. He called on all States to quickly close that gap, ensure rational prescribing practices and prevent diversion and risk of abuse. There was also an urgent need to continue to address the overdose epidemic in North America. The Board encouraged Governments to work with public health officials, pharmacists, pharmaceutical companies, physicians, consumer protection associations and law enforcement. It suggested regulating the industry and its advertising and raising awareness about the risks of inappropriate prescription practices and misuse through

public education. While the therapeutic use of cannabinoids was permissible under the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, Governments should examine the results of scientific studies and ensure that prescribing was performed with competent medical knowledge and supervision, based on the best available scientific evidence and in consideration of potential health risks.

27. To support the implementation of the outcome document of the 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, the Board had developed a new electronic platform to facilitate international trade in controlled substances. Through its Learning project, it was working to enhance the capacity of national authorities to better estimate their requirements for medicines. The Board also worked to counteract new psychoactive substances through Project Ion and its communication platform, as well as the Paris Pact initiative. The Operational Partnerships to Interdict Opioids' Illicit Distribution and Sales Project had been launched to support national and international efforts to prevent synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, from reaching markets. Those initiatives required the full engagement, participation and political and financial support of States.

28. The report also analysed the world drug situation and highlighted developments at the regional level, drawing attention to the fact that Oceania remained the region with the lowest rate of accession to the drug control treaties. He urged Member States to support and implement the measures recommended in the report.

29. The 2017 Precursors Report (E/INCB/2017/4) detailed the latest trends and developments in legitimate international trade and trafficking in precursors and provided an overview of the actions taken by Governments and the Board to deny traffickers access to the chemicals needed for illicit drug manufacture. It also focused on online trade in precursors and related challenges, including the increasingly sophisticated attempts of traffickers to obtain chemicals. With regard to scheduling, the Board made recommendations to identify, disrupt and dismantle organized criminal groups involved in trafficking precursors.

30. Ongoing dialogue with Governments was crucial to monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the drug control conventions, with the ultimate objective of promoting and safeguarding health and welfare. The Board counted on continued cooperation from States in reporting and in accepting country missions.

31. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Mexico) said that his Government was committed to addressing the world drug problem and attached great importance to multilateral bodies and mechanisms to implement related international agreements. Mexico would continue to take a holistic and comprehensive approach to promoting concrete actions to implement the recommendations from the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in international forums and regional mechanisms.

32. His Government placed particular importance on the participation of civil society, United Nations entities and other international organizations in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Mexico would continue to promote international strategies that focused on well-being and placed the individual at the centre of drug policies.

33. **Ms. Mukhametzyanova** (Russian Federation) said that she wished to draw attention to the recent adoption of a bill legalizing marijuana in Canada, which her Government regarded as a flagrant violation of that country's international legal obligations under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The International Narcotics Control Board had repeatedly emphasized that the production of narcotics was allowed only for medical and scientific purposes, without exception. The three international drug control conventions must remain the cornerstone of the international drug control system, as clearly set forth in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, which had been supported by Canada. Her delegation hoped that such an unacceptable step taken by Canada would not go unnoticed by other members of the international community who understood the importance of a responsible, comprehensive and non-selective implementation of United Nations conventions by all participants. Her Government expressed its full support for the principled position taken by the Board in the implementation of its mandate.

34. With regard to the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-first session (E/2018/28), she wished to draw attention to paragraph 194, which referenced a statement made by the Russian Federation on behalf of a number of States to express their reservations regarding the text of resolution 61/10 on preparations for the ministerial segment, to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019.

35. **Ms. Turner** (Observer for Jamaica) said that her Government had been pleased to participate in the sixty-

first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and was encouraged by the willingness and efforts of the Chair to continue to engage with countries, like Jamaica, that were not yet a State member of the Commission and did not have permanent representation in Vienna. Her Government reaffirmed its commitment to its obligations under the three international drug control treaties and other applicable international law and would continue to make efforts to address the illicit cultivation, manufacturing and trafficking of narcotic drugs and other controlled substances.

36. With regard to the statement by the President of International Narcotics Control Board, her Government was considering the proposal to host a mission to Jamaica in 2018. She reiterated the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach to addressing the world drug problem and for synergistic cooperation within the United Nations and among Member States.

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixtieth session

37. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixtieth session (E/2017/28/Add.1).

38. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-first session (E/2018/28)

39. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-first session and provisional agenda for its sixty-second session

Draft decision II: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

40. *Draft decisions I and II were adopted.*

Interactive round table on the contribution of functional commissions to the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

41. **The President** said that the round table provided a platform where key issues, gains, achievements and challenges that had been discussed in depth by functional commissions could be synthesized in order to discern common trends. It would allow the commissions to demonstrate how their most recent work made a substantive contribution to the high-level political forum, specifically, to one or several of the Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2018, which included Goal 6 on water and sanitation, Goal 7 on energy, Goal 11 on cities and human settlements, Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns and Goal 15 on life on land. The round table would also explore how the commissions were addressing cross-cutting issues, such as partnerships under Goal 17, and gender mainstreaming to strengthen the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She also wished to hear more about the increased collaboration, interaction and information exchange among the commissions.

42. **Ms. Buenrostro Massieu** (Mexico), Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, said that the world drug problem was intertwined with a vast array of social, economic and environmental issues. In 2009, Member States had noted that vulnerabilities undermining human development, including poverty and social marginalization, should also be taken into consideration in national interventions to counter the world drug problem. The principal of ensuring that no one was left behind was a prerequisite to sustainable and resilient societies, and the need to incorporate provisions for vulnerable members of society in all aspects of addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues had been widely recognized.

43. In the outcome document of the 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, for which the Commission acted as a follow-up body, Member States had highlighted that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing. With regard to Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages, drug use had a significant impact on public health. Drug production and trafficking had direct consequences on Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies. Furthermore, the relationship between economic development and drugs could be seen in rural areas, where poverty and a lack of sustainable livelihoods were risk factors that could lead farmers to engage in illicit cultivation. In a recent resolution of the Commission, member States had underlined the need for long-term and flexible funding for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development.

44. In the outcome document of the special session, Member States had committed to ensuring that measures to eradicate and prevent the illicit cultivation of plants took due account of the protection of the environment, which could support the achievement of Goal 6 on the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and Goal 15 on protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Clandestine laboratories that processed drugs required precursors and other chemicals, many of which were hazardous to human health and damaging to the environment, and unused chemicals were often disposed of in sewage systems, rivers and forests. Furthermore, alternative development initiatives must be environmentally friendly to ensure that they did not cause deforestation or other environmental damage.

45. With regard to Goal 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, the *World Drug Report* of 2012 had addressed the linkages between urbanization and drug control. The outcome document of the special session highlighted the importance of providing access to regular sports and cultural activities for children and youth, with a view to promoting healthy lives and lifestyles through the recovery and improvement of public spaces. Targeted prevention measures strengthened resilience among children and youth and supported international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Viable economic alternatives must also be provided in urban areas. The Commission encouraged the consideration of development-oriented interventions, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services. Prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social integration measures for people who used drugs, when based on scientific evidence, reduced drug use and its impact on public health, which was essential to the well-being of societies. The Commission had adopted a resolution to promote non-stigmatizing attitudes in health care and called on Member States to ensure non-discriminatory access to health care and social services for vulnerable members of society within the framework of comprehensive demand reduction strategies.

46. **Mr. Yaakob** (Observer for Malaysia), Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests, said that the thirteenth session of the Forum had featured a ministerial round table and an interactive plenary discussion on the contribution of forests to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It had identified lessons learned, challenges, emerging issues and forest-based solutions for accelerating achievements, particularly with regard to Goal 6 on water and sanitation, Goal 7 on energy, Goal 11 on human settlements, Goal 12 on production and consumption and Goal 17 on partnerships, in addition to Goal 15 on life on land, which included sustainably managing forests. The key messages from those discussions had been that forests were crucial for food, water, wood, energy, biodiversity, health and climate change; the Goals could only be achieved if forests were sustainably managed and forest landscapes were restored; and halting deforestation and restoring degraded forests by 2020, under Goal 15.2, required urgent action. While the necessary best practices and tools were available, their application must be upscaled, and progress must be accelerated.

47. Fragmentation in global forest governance remained a challenge. Enhanced synergies were needed across the United Nations system and beyond the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and achieving its global forest goals and targets would accelerate the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals.

48. A summary of the session had been submitted to the 2018 high-level political forum. In addition, a one-day event entitled "Forest-based transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: lessons learned and success stories" would be held in July 2018, with a view to stimulating partnerships and synergies among stakeholders to achieve Goal 15 and other Goals under review by the high-level political forum.

49. **Ms. Grignon** (Observer for Kenya), Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, said that, during the sixty-second session of the Commission, it had become clear that policymaking as usual was no longer sufficient to address the challenges faced by women and girls living in rural areas. In order to create sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies, in which those furthest behind were reached first, the international community needed to employ a more targeted approach that closed gaps, responded to their needs and facilitated the realization of their rights.

50. During the session, a robust agreement had been reached, which clearly outlined the targeted approaches necessary to reach all rural women and girls and end all forms of discrimination and violence against them. The agreed conclusions reviewed the situation of rural women and girls in relation to Goal 5 and its targets on gender equality and empowerment, as well as other Goals that would be the focus of the high-level political forum. Discussions had also focused on eradicating poverty, ending hunger, improving nutrition and food security and providing improved agricultural solutions

for rural women and girls. In that connection, the adverse impacts of climate change and concerns regarding deforestation and desertification had also received special attention. Additional issues discussed had included infrastructure; water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; transportation; human settlements in rural areas; women's equal access to productive resources; land tenure security; access to, ownership of and control over land, forests and water; and the urgent need to reduce the time spent by women and girls collecting fuel and household water. The session had provided Governments and stakeholders with a road map to realize the rights of rural women and girls. Strengthened normative, legal and policy frameworks and other enablers would facilitate the implementation of economic and social policies for the empowerment of women and girls and ensure their participation, agency, voice and leadership.

51. **Mr. Bouchaara** (Morocco), Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, said that the Commission had a standing agenda item under which it discussed follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was working on a number of issues that were relevant to the 2018 high-level political forum, including the needs of migrants and victims of trafficking in persons, the specific needs of children and youth, violence against women and girls, the treatment of prisoners and the promotion of the rule of law, as well as responses to cybercrime, terrorism and urban crime.

52. While the work of the Commission was most directly connected to Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies, it was also related to several other Goals, including Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 10 on reducing inequality. With regard to Goal 11 on the creation of safe, inclusive and resilient cities, the Commission had contributed to the development of effective and humane urban crime prevention strategies, including through its work on standards and norms. In the outcome document of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for which the Commission acted as an implementing body, Member States had agreed to further address the links between urban crime and other manifestations of organized crime, including crimes committed by gangs, and had committed to exchanging experiences in effective crime prevention and criminal justice programmes and policies in order to address the impact of urban crime and gang-related violence through innovative approaches and foster social inclusion and reintegration of adolescents and young adults. With regard to Goal 15 on life on land, the Commission worked to combat trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora. In the outcome document of the Congress, Member States had committed to adopting effective measures to prevent and counter crimes that impacted the environment, including trafficking in wildlife, timber and timber products and hazardous waste, as well as poaching. He looked forward to deepened dialogue and cooperation with participants so that the international community could meet expectations and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

53. **Mr. Major** (Observer for Hungary), Vice-Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, said that the twenty-first session of the Commission had focused on two priority themes. The first theme was directly linked to Goal 7 and focused on the role of science, technology and innovation in increasing the share of renewable energy by 2030. The Commission had reviewed the latest trends in the use of renewable energy technologies and had identified barriers and drivers for deployment. It had examined the potential opportunities afforded by new and emerging technologies and had explored how policymakers could shape renewable energy markets and policies by balancing international competition and cooperation, innovation, change and technologies. The Commission had also discussed the technical challenges of integrating renewable energy to electricity grids and the advantages and disadvantages of policy instruments such as feed-in tariffs and auctions in electricity markets. In order to increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, Governments should increase support for research and development in related technologies, adopt policies that supported innovation and deployment, enable the contribution of grid and off-grid solutions and support new business and financing models to ensure affordability. Renewable energy policies should therefore be incorporated in national development strategies, and policy coordination and coherence with sectoral policies relating to science, technology and innovation must be improved.

54. The second priority theme, building digital competencies to benefit from new and existing technologies with a focus on gender and youth, was an area in which the international community had failed. Since 1990, the gender gap had increased substantially, especially in digital technologies, despite all efforts, rhetoric and proposed policies, and everyone within the United Nations system must work to determine the cause. The importance of digital skills was well known, and it was clear that all countries were lagging behind. For example, 46 per cent of the workforce was lacking the necessary digital skills across the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries. In

that connection, the recent session of the Commission had provided a platform for sharing good practices, in which a number of countries had participated. Furthermore, the participation of women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics should be increased.

55. The Commission had also held a ministerial round table on the role of science, technology and innovation in supporting sustainable and resilient societies and had created a space to facilitate international cooperation in which Member States could share their experiences, explore opportunities for learning and build partnerships.

56. **Mr. Santaella** (Mexico), Vice-Chair of the Statistical Commission, speaking via video link from Mexico City, said that the Commission had been developing instruments to monitor the 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In March 2015, the Commission had established the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to develop a global indicator framework, which had been adopted by the General Assembly in 2017. During its last session of 2017, the Commission had agreed on some important refinements to the list of 232 indicators and had discussed the status of those for which the methodology was not yet fully developed. Given that countries had already begun to establish national reporting platforms and tended to use the global indicator framework as a guide, further development of those indicators was crucial.

57. At its most recent session, the Commission had reviewed the draft guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the Goals, which was an initial step to improve coordination and harmonization of national and international data systems and to ensure full transparency of data, metadata and data aggregates presented in the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators database. Further work would be necessary to establish a fruitful dialogue between all parties and to prepare criteria for implementing the guidelines that were based on best practices and would limit the potential burden in terms of time and resources for both national and international statistical systems. It would not be possible to review progress on the Sustainable Development Goals or fully implement the 2030 Agenda without quality, timely, reliable, open and disaggregated data. The Commission had therefore prioritized capacity development, including statistical training, and had established the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training.

58. Household surveys were an important source of data for monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in countries where administrative data sources and civil registration systems were not fully functional. Through its Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, the Commission was working to provide countries with the necessary tools and guidelines to conduct those surveys. The Working Group had mapped Goal indicators that could be derived from household surveys and would continue to identify existing gaps in that regard. It would also update the existing methodological guidance on household surveys with a cross-cutting focus, particularly with regard to sampling, disaggregation and multimode data collection.

59. **The President** said that Goal 17 on partnerships was included in every review conducted by the high-level political forum, and input from functional commissions strengthened the integrated nature of the Goals. In addition, the 2030 Agenda emphasized the paramount importance of systematically mainstreaming a gender perspective in its implementation. She wished to know which cross-cutting issues were addressed by the commissions and how their work contributed to an integrated approach to the Sustainable Development Goals. She also wondered how the commissions mainstreamed gender perspectives and encouraged partnerships.

60. **Mr. Santaella** (Mexico), Vice-Chair of the Statistical Commission, speaking via video link from Mexico City, said that, through the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, the Commission was working to determine the dimensions for data disaggregation necessary to ensure that no one was left behind. In order to address cross-cutting issues, the Commission had established the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which had presented the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data at the first United Nations World Data Forum, in South Africa in 2017. The Plan had defined six strategic areas of action: coordination and strategic leadership on data for sustainable development, innovation and modernization of national statistical systems, strengthening of basic statistical activities and programmes, dissemination and use of sustainable development data, multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development data, and resource mobilization and coordinated efforts for statistical capacity-building. The second United Nations World Data Forum would take place in October 2018 in Dubai to facilitate dialogue between the various

communities of users and producers of statistics for the implementation of the Global Action Plan.

61. With regard to gender, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics served as an advisory and coordinating mechanism for the Global Gender Statistics Programme, and a number of critical gender issues had been integrated throughout the global indicator framework. Approximately one third of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators were gender relevant, including those on poverty, health, education, work, violence against women and political decision-making. National statistical offices faced challenges in monitoring Goal indicators, particularly with regard to producing data that properly reflected gender issues. The Commission therefore reviewed and provided guidance on methodologies to integrate a gender dimension into all areas of official statistics, including on emerging issues such as unpaid work, asset ownership and entrepreneurship. It also promoted statistical capacity-building so that countries could regularly produce statistics that responded to their national gender data needs. Collaboration with countries was essential to ensuring that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls were reflected in all aspects of economic and social well-being.

62. **Ms. Buenrostro Massieu** (Mexico), Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, said that ensuring a gender-perspective approach had become a key issue in addressing the world drug problem. According to the 2018 *World Drug Report*, the negative impact of drug use had increased more rapidly among women than men. The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem contained commitments to ensure that drug control policies, measures and interventions took into account the specific needs and circumstances of women. Furthermore, in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, Member States had highlighted that a truly balanced approach to international drug control efforts must incorporate a gender-responsive approach, and a chapter had been devoted to operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues. Member States were also encouraged to mainstream a gender perspective and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes.

63. The Commission had encouraged Member States to take into account the specific needs of women in the prevention, detection and treatment of drug dependence, had addressed the involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking and had adopted a resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes. During its most recent session, the Commission had adopted a resolution on promoting measures for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B and C and Syphilis.

64. With regard to partnerships, the Commission highly valued the contributions of United Nations entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations, academia and civil society. In its preparations for and follow-up to the special session, the Commission had sought opportunities to benefit from the experiences, lessons learned and good practices of all stakeholders. In addition, the most recent session of the Commission had included an agenda item on inter-agency cooperation and coordination. As requested by the Secretary-General, UNODC was coordinating efforts among relevant United Nations entities to assist Member States in implementing the outcome document of the special session. Special attention was also given to cooperation with other intergovernmental bodies, particularly the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission.

65. **Mr. Major** (Observer for Hungary), Vice-Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, said that efforts in science, technology and innovation directly contributed to achieving a number of Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure. For example, artificial intelligence, especially when combined with robotics, transformed production and business. Three-dimensional printing allowed for faster and cheaper low-volume production and rapid iterative prototyping. Biotechnology enabled gene editing, which allowed for personalized treatments and genetic modifications of plants and animals, potentially revolutionizing agriculture and the management of epidemics. Nanotechnology was used in water purification, battery storage, the precise management of agrochemicals and the delivery of medication.

66. The Commission addressed the cross-cutting nature of science, technology and innovation through a sectoral analysis of their impact on sustainable development. In 2017, it had focused on food security, and in 2019, it would examine the impact of frontier technologies, with particular emphasis on the implications for developing countries. The Commission would continue to promote sharing examples of good practices with a view to identifying effective policy measures that enabled science, technology and innovation to contribute to sustainable development.

67. With respect to gender, the Gender Advisory Board had been established in 1995, and the Commission had always promoted integrating a gender perspective in science, technology and innovation policy throughout the entire process, including assessment, policy design, implementation, capacity-building, monitoring and follow-up. In addition, the Commission had consistently applied a gender lens to its priority themes. For example, with regard to the theme on renewable energy, the Commission had emphasized the urgent need to deploy alternatives to the traditional use of bioenergy for cooking and had provided a platform to showcase related technologies and international initiatives, such as the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, which played an important role in addressing those challenges.

68. **Mr. Bouchaara** (Morocco), Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, said that addressing the specific needs of women in crime prevention and criminal justice had been highlighted in a number of resolutions adopted by the Commission, as well as in the outcome document of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. For example, the Commission had adopted resolutions on action against the gender-related killing of women and girls, on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in prisons, and on mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime. In a recent resolution on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, Member States had called for mainstreaming crime prevention strategies with a gender perspective into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes and adopting integrated and comprehensive responses to violence against women to ensure equal protection under the law and equal access to justice. The resolution also called on UNODC to assist Member States in improving systems for collecting and analysing data on crime prevention and criminal justice at all levels, including gender-specific data. In addition, UNODC promoted access to justice for women and girls, provided guidance for policymakers and practitioners and supported the development of legislation and policies that prevented violence against women and girls and protected their rights.

69. With regard to partnerships, addressing crime in all its forms required a comprehensive approach, and the Commission highly valued the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations and civil society. It worked closely with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, which had been established to assist the international community in strengthening cooperation. The Commission also called on relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue coordinating their activities in order to promote a more integrated approach to providing assistance for capacity-building on criminal justice reform.

70. **Mr. Yaakob** (Observer for Malaysia), Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests, said that the sustainable management of forests required integrated approaches to land-use planning and decision-making within and across sectors, as well as participatory and transparent mechanisms to maximize long-term benefits to communities. In that regard, important cross-cutting issues, such as gender mainstreaming, the empowerment of women and girls, partnership and good governance, had been fully integrated into the mandates and activities of the Forum, particularly in the global targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. For example, targets under global forest goal 5, on promoting governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda, called on all relevant stakeholders to advance coherent and cross-sectoral national and subnational forest policies. Global forest goal 6, on enhancing cooperation, coordination and synergy on forest-related issues at all levels, required the involvement of all relevant major groups and stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum. At the inter-agency level, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, established in 2001, consisted of 15 international forest-related organizations and aimed to promote the implementation of the strategic plan and other international forest-related goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

71. Mainstreaming gender issues was an integral part of the work of the Forum. The strategic plan specifically recognized the importance of action by all stakeholders, including women. The role of gender equality and empowerment in its implementation had been emphasized in recent resolutions of the Forum, including in relation to the activities of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network. The communication and outreach strategy of the strategic plan, adopted by the Forum at its most recent session, also required due consideration to be given to gender issues in promoting public awareness and actions on forests.

72. **Ms. Grignon** (Observer for Kenya), Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, said that achieving gender equality required the mobilization and

participation of a number of actors. The Commission therefore provided an annual opportunity for gender equality advocates from Governments, civil society, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to come together to celebrate progress, renew commitments, prioritize challenges and concerns and chart the way forward. Stakeholders at the national level participated in preparatory work and regional meetings prior to the meetings of the Commission. In addition, government delegations sometimes included representatives of non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions and women and girls from rural areas to ensure inclusivity and broad-based participation.

73. The outcomes of the Commission, in particular the agreed conclusions, tasked Governments with undertaking concrete actions, making necessary investments in women and girls and prioritizing key interventions to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. The Commission also encouraged the participation of a broad range of other actors, including youth-led and faith-based organizations, feminist groups and the private sector. The programme of the sixty-second session of the Commission had included women's organizations as well as producer, agricultural and fisheries organizations, specifically those based in rural areas. Such broad participation enriched the work of the Commission, promoted collaboration and partnerships beyond its sessions and facilitated the implementation of gender equality commitments at the national and regional levels.

74. The Commission also acted as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming. Through the use of a thematic and sectoral approach to the situation of women and girls, the Commission demonstrated that policies relating to macroeconomics, trade, energy, science and technology were gender-sensitive rather than gender-neutral, given that they impacted women and men differently as a result of structural gender inequalities and systemic discrimination. Through its work, the Commission highlighted the steps that were needed to prevent and eliminate those barriers. Related policies, investments and interventions were facilitated by the availability of data that was disaggregated on the basis of gender.

75. **Mr. Xu** Zhongsheng (China) said that the Vice-Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development had mentioned that science and technology could facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, many developing countries felt that emerging frontier technologies had widened the gap between developed and developing countries. He wondered how the catalytic role of memorandums of intent could be strengthened to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

76. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Mexico) said that it was important to have dialogue and build bridges between the various functional commissions of the Council. In that connection, Mexico had promoted resolutions on gender perspectives in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the recent agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women had called on Member States to adhere to the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders. Furthermore, dialogue should be maintained, not just among the Chairs of the commissions, but also among delegations in the various United Nations offices in order to benefit from the contributions made in other bodies. For example, the issue of rapid technological change had recently been discussed in a number of forums, including the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. New technologies must be harnessed so that Member States could achieve the Goals.

77. **Ms. Vives Balmaña** (Andorra) said that the round table allowed participants to better understand the work of the commissions and how it could support the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. While her delegation welcomed the integration of a gender perspective in nearly all commissions, the digital divide between genders and countries gave cause for concern. She wondered how to close that gap, given that it had been widening for nearly 20 years.

78. Discussions within the Commission on the Status of Women demonstrated that the persistent issue of violence and systemic discrimination against women greatly hampered their ability to flourish. It would be interesting to hear the views of the representatives of the commissions in that regard.

79. **Ms. Premchit** (Observer for Thailand) said that the vast knowledge and specialization of the functional commissions and the core work of the coordination and management meetings allowed the Council to build on its strengths and more efficiently support Member States in advancing sustainable development. One such example was the resolution on the strategic framework for geospatial information and services for disasters, which had been adopted by the Council in the previous meeting and which Thailand had sponsored. The framework, which was forward-looking and action-oriented, had been developed by the Statistical Commission, through its Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

80. Building sustainable and resilient societies in all aspects in the long term required availability of data and investment in information management. The international community must therefore continue to collaborate, build capacity and share best practices in order to produce high-quality, timely and reliable data, which would help to translate commitments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals into concrete actions and tangible results on the ground.

81. **Ms. Grignon** (Observer for Kenya), Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, said that some of the issues related to closing the technological gap could be addressed by dealing with violence against women. It was a matter of creating legal, institutional and policy frameworks that specifically targeted women, as well as investing sufficient funds in the necessary gender-specific interventions. Education and access were also essential to closing the technological gap. In addition, the Council was making structural changes and raising awareness about technology transfer and other difficult issues.

82. The Commission had proactively reached out and exchanged information and ideas with other functional commissions. Expanded cooperation across the Council supported a more harmonized and coordinated approach, which was critical to guaranteeing a more gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She was pleased that collaboration among the functional commissions was growing stronger every year and hoped that better coordination and partnerships would help put an end to silos within the United Nations.

83. **Ms. Buenrostro Massieu** (Mexico), Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, said that, since 2016, the Commission had enhanced its relationship with other functional commissions of the Council, particularly the Statistical Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women. In that connection, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on the Status of Women had held their most recent sessions simultaneously, connecting the meetings via video link. The round table provided an opportunity to enhance that cooperation and set the tone for future collaboration. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs could also further foster cooperation among Member States on capacity-building and assistance in implementing commitments.

84. **Mr. Santaella** (Mexico), Vice-Chair of the Statistical Commission, speaking via video link from Mexico City, said that technological gaps must be measured before they could be closed. Statistics therefore played an important role in identifying such gaps.

85. The Commission had been working to integrate geospatial information with statistical information, and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management was coordinating work to locate many of the people that needed to be reached in order to achieve the goal of leaving no one behind.

86. **Mr. Major** (Observer for Hungary), Vice-Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, said that new technologies did, in fact, risk increasing the gap between developed and developing countries, and the international community was losing the battle in leaving no one behind. The Commission must move beyond assessing that problem and play an active role in addressing it. It had therefore created a space for international cooperation that allowed Member States to share their experiences, explore opportunities for learning and build partnerships. For example, during the most recent session of the Commission, the Government of China had offered capacity-building, training and research opportunities to scientists and policymakers from developing countries.

87. In 2017, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development had participated in each other's meetings. The round table brought the commissions closer together and raised issues that had not been addressed in their silos. He hoped that the collaboration would extend beyond the round-table discussion.

88. **Mr. Bouchaara** (Morocco), Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, said that, with regard to legislation, the Commission had made significant progress in promoting gender equality. However, in practice, there was still a gap. For example, during the recent session of the Commission, none of the regional groups had nominated women to serve as panellists. In order to address that issue, the functional commissions of the Council should ensure a gender balance in every panel.

89. With regard to collaboration between commissions, it was important to preserve the unique working culture of each commission while building bridges between them. The distance between New York and Vienna must not hinder collaboration, and commissions must learn to consult one another regularly on relevant issues. Furthermore, functional commissions that were not headquartered in New York needed to be consulted and included in discussions concerning reforms to the United Nations and the Council. While the round table provided an opportunity to share experiences, the commissions must also find a way to have more detailed and regular consultation.

90. **Mr. Yaakob** (Observer for Malaysia), Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests, said that the commissions must take a more coordinated approach and harmonize their work, as they clearly dealt with overlapping issues. In that connection, the high-level political forum played a valuable role.

91. With regard to addressing gender issues, the Forum asked Member States to provide voluntary national contributions in order to assist them in determining how to achieve targets under the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, which included narrowing the gender gap.

92. **The President** urged participants to incorporate the information, insights and evidence provided by the commissions into their work at the forthcoming high-level political forum.

93. **Ms. Regnér** (Deputy Executive Director of Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that the round table made visible issues relating to gender equality that might otherwise have been overlooked and confirmed the value added of collaboration with the functional commissions. In order to implement measures that worked, there must be progress in all Sustainable Development Goals. To that end, United Nations entities must collect and analyse data and identify injustices in order to address them.

94. The systematic review of the Sustainable Development Goals by the high-level political forum provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to benefit from inputs and recommendations. A gender perspective should be mainstreamed in the development of all national sustainable development policies, planning, processes and budgets to ensure gender-responsive procurement, expenditures and design in maintaining and expanding public services. Women's use of time and space must be given consideration with a view to ensuring that their disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work could be explicitly addressed, as well as examining how men could share in those tasks.

95. The UN-Women report, *Turning promises into action: Gender equality and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, examined the 17 Goals through a gender lens and highlighted the action needed to achieve them. It illustrated significant gaps within countries and among women owing to their income, status, race, ethnicity or location, and provided recommendations for change. In combatting gender inequalities, other social and economic inequalities were combatted as well. The high-level political forum could make a real difference to ensure that no one was left behind and that those with the greatest needs were reached first.

96. The 25-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to be conducted in 2020, presented an opportunity for the functional commissions to deepen their contributions to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. That process had been launched in June 2018 and would involve comprehensive reviews at the national level and regional events. A high-level meeting of the General Assembly in 2020 was also recommended. The review would highlight the links between the implementation of the Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.